

HOUSE BILL 2687

By Hensley

AN ACT to name a segment of U.S. Highway 412 in Lewis County in honor of former Representative Robert V. Gafford.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should permanently commemorate the accomplishments of those statesmen who have served this State with the greatest acumen and dedication; and

WHEREAS, Representative Robert V. "Bob" Gafford of Hohenwald is a well-rounded gentleman who has served astutely in the diverse worlds of business, politics, and government; and

WHEREAS, Bob Gafford served the good people of House District 70 and Lewis County during the 93rd and 94th General Assemblies as a member of the House of Representatives, always working with purpose and conviction to guarantee the health and prosperity of his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure in the General Assembly, Representative proudly and effectively sponsored the Governor's Master Road Program of 1986; and

WHEREAS, one of the many benefits of this landmark legislation was the enhancement of U.S. Highway 412 into a four-lane thoroughfare from Hohenwald to Maury County; and

WHEREAS, this enhancement not only not only made U.S. Highway 412 a corridor route across the State of Tennessee, it also contributed significantly to the growth and economic welfare of Lewis County; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis County Board of Commissioners has petitioned this Body to name a certain segment of U.S. Highway 412 in honor of Bob Gafford as a lasting tribute to his important role in making Lewis County's exemplary roads even better, in general, and his hard

work and dedication in bringing to fruition the enhancement U.S. Highway 412 as a four-lane thoroughfare, in particular; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the segment of U.S. Highway 412 in Lewis County from the western corporate boundaries of the City of Hohenwald to such route's intersection with the Natchez Trace Parkway is hereby designated the "Robert V. Gafford Highway" in tribute to an excellent public servant and even finer human being.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the segment of U.S. Highway 412 described in Section 1 as the "Robert V. Gafford Highway".

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-

state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 6. The appellation "Robert V. Gafford Highway" provided for in this act is for honorary purposes only and nothing contained herein shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any address, or the governmental system for assigning addresses, in any county, municipality or other governmental entity affected by this act.

SECTION 7. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any previously named segment or segments of any highway described in this act as the "Robert V. Gafford Highway".

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.